IN THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. Please replace Drawing Sheet 3, Figures 4 and 5 with replacement Drawing Sheet 3, Figures 4 and 5. Applicants also submit an annotated drawing page reflecting the change. Applicants provide formal corrected drawings to be entered if the proposed changes are accepted by the Examiner.

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed November 21, 2006 and Advisory Action mailed February 1, 2007. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-25 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-25 were rejected. Claims 1, 14 and 23 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Objection to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failure to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's basis for the objection (for reasons as stated in the Response to Office Action filed 22 January 2007), Applicants submit replacement drawing sheet 3 of 3 showing Figure 5. Step 56 has been amended to show "a startup time for a first server module based on the unique address for the first server module and a multiplication factor associated with the duration of an inrush load of at least one of the server modules." Applicants further note that this constitutes no new matter, as this feature was disclosed in the original specification as filed (See, e.g., 17:20-28).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0198608 issued to Bruce Alan Smith ("*Smith*"), in view of Japanese Publication 2000-102166 issued to Akiro Ando ("*Ando*").

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith* and *Ando* as applied Claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,735,704 issued to David Butka et al. ("*Butka*").

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith* and *Ando* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0177755 issued to Henry T. Fung ("*Fung*").

Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith* and *Ando* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,766,222 issued to Raymond S. Duley ("*Duley*").

Claims 14-16, 18-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith* in view of *Fung* and *Ando*.

Claim 17 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith*, *Fung*, and *Ando* as applied to Claim 14, and further in view of *Butka*.

Applicants respectfully submit the proposed combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, do not render Applicants' amended claims obvious, as discussed below.

Claim 1 is Allowable over the proposed Smith-Ando combination

Claim 1 as amended recites, among other limitations:

> a midplane comprising at least two connectors operable to receive the at least two server modules and to provide a unique address for each server module, each connector having a unique predetermined address independent of the server modules.

The proposed *Smith-Ando* combination fails to disclose these claimed limitations. For instance, the system disclosed in *Smith* is able to read identification information because "***each blade's GA pins are hardwired*** to a unique combination of 0's (ground) and 1's Vcc at the connector" (0008). *Smith* also requires that "the bus controller 106 of each blade 102 is able to read the value of its corresponding GA pins" (0025). *Smith*, then, does not disclose a midplane comprising connectors which operate to provide a unique address for each server module based on a unique predetermined address of the connector independent of the midplane. Rather, the teachings of *Smith* require that any blade later inserted into the midplane be ***manually hardwired*** with a location code.

In contrast, the invention as described in Claim 1 recites that each ***connectors*** has "a unique predetermined address independent of the server modules." The invention of Claim 1

provides a unique code based on the connector used in the midplane, rather than a hardwired code on the server such as that taught by *Smith*. The invention of Claim 1 provides that server blades later connected later need not be provided with a ***manually hardwired*** code.

Applicants further submit that *Ando* does not disclose these limitations of Claim 1. For at least these reasons, the combination of *Smith* and *Ando* fails to disclose every limitation of Claim 1. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of Claim 1.

Claims 14 and 23 are Allowable over the proposed Fung-Ando-Smith combination

Applicant respectfully maintains that the proposed combination, namely *Fung* with either *Smith* or *Ando*, is not suggested or motivated by the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *Fung* is generally directed to "power and energy consumption and workload management" to "maintain performance while conserving energy" (Abstract). *Ando*, on the other hand, is concerned with "distributing the rush current" so that each card is not "turned on at coincidence" (0007), but has no application during the normal operation of the system. Finally, *Smith* gives no indication whatsoever of concern with power management -- neither at start up nor at any time in the operation of the system.

Even assuming the proposed *Fung-Smith-Ando* combination is correct, which Applicants do not concede, the combination fails to disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of Claims 14 and 23. For example, regarding Claim 14, the cited references fail to teach or suggest:

> assigning a unique address to each server module based on the predetermined address of the connector receiving that server module.

As another example, regarding Claim 23, the cited references fail to teach or suggest:

> one or more midplanes associated with the server modules, the midplanes including a plurality of connectors, each connector having a unique predetermined address independent of the server modules, each connector operable to interface with one of the server modules and provide a unique address for that server

module based on the unique address of the connector receiving that server module.

The system disclosed in *Smith* is able to read identification information because "***each blade's GA pins are hardwired*** to a unique combination of 0's (ground) and 1's Vcc at the connector" (0008). *Smith* also requires that "the bus controller 106 of each blade 102 is able to read the value of its corresponding GA pins" (0025). Neither *Smith, Ando* or *Fung* discloses a midplane which provides a unique address based on a predetermined address associated with the connector. The teachings of *Smith* require that any blade later inserted into the connector be ***manually hardwired*** with a location code.

In contrast, Claim 14 recites "assigning a unique address to each server module on the ***predetermined address of the connector*** receiving that server module" (emphasis added). In a similar manner, Claim 23 recites ***each connector*** "having a unique predetermined address ***independent of the server modules***" (emphasis added). Claims 14 and 23 recite a unique address for each server module based on connector with which it interfaces, rather than a hardwired code on the server blade itself such as that taught by *Smith*. The invention described by Claims 14 and 23 provides that server blades inserted into the connector need not be ***manually hardwired*** with a location code.

Applicants further submit that neither *Fung* nor *Ando* teaches the limitations recited above. For at least these reasons, the proposed *Fung-Smith-Ando* combination fails to disclose, teach or suggest every limitation of Claims 14 and 23. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of Claims 14 and 23.

Given that Claims 2-13 depend from Independent Claim 1, Claims 15-22 depend from Independent Claim 14 and Claims 24 and 25 depend from Independent Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-25 are currently allowable.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

Applicants respectfully submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal and authorize the Commissioner to charge the filing fee of $790.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. and to also charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

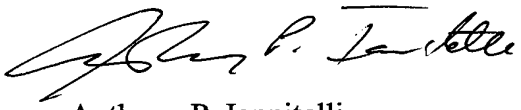
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-25.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge $790.00 for the Request for Continued Examination. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due at this time; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2642.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



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Date: 21 Feb 2007

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Enclosure
1) RCE Transmittal
2) Replacement Sheet
3) Annotated Sheet Showing Changes